



## NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release: Oct. 26, 2004  
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### **\*MEDIA ADVISORY\***

## ***State set to open learning center in North Vernon***

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – As a part of the effort to extend learning opportunities throughout the state, today the Indiana Department of Workforce Development awarded a \$200,000 grant to the city of North Vernon to support its efforts in opening a new learning center for area workers.

Open to all citizens, the center will offer workshops, classes, employment counseling and other training opportunities available at any of the state's WorkOne Centers. The new center will also provide skills assessments, job matching and distance learning programs to residents as a part of Gov. Joe Kernan's Indiana@Work initiative. Funded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD)'s Workforce Investment Act dollars, the grant will be used to operate and staff the facility.

The new learning center will be built in the Jennings County Industrial Park using local tax increment finance funds. Until construction is completed North Vernon's Heritage Community Bank, located at Seven Fifth Street, will donate space so that training opportunities for area residents can begin immediately. Services will be available daily between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The permanent center is scheduled to open in spring 2005 and will be managed by the Jennings County Economic Development Corp.

The center is a result of a partnership between the city of North Vernon, Jennings County Economic Development Corp., Ivy Tech State College, the AFL-CIO Labor Institute for Training, Experience Works, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the South Central Workforce Investment Board.

Through its various programs and initiatives, DWD is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs, and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service

For more information on this or other DWD programs, call 1-888-WorkOne or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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